



## English Toolkit: Indicator 1.3.5

Student Handout: English: Indicator 1.3.5

### Goal 1.0 Reading, Reviewing and Responding to Texts

Expectation 1.3 The student will explain and give evidence to support perceptions about print and non-print works.

Indicator 1.3.5 The student will explain how common and universal experiences serve as the source of literary themes that cross time and cultures.

#### Assessment Limits:

Identifying the experiences, emotions, issues and ideas in a text or across texts that give rise to universal literary themes

Considering the influence, effect, or impact of historical, cultural, or biographical information on a text (will not be dependent on student's prior knowledge)

### Public Release - Selected Response Item - Released in 2009

English Indicator 1.3.5

Read the poem "[The Gift](#)." Then answer the following item.

Which statement is most closely related to a theme of the poem?

- A. Children exaggerate the pain of small injuries.
- B. Parents distract children by telling them stories.
- C. The wisdom of children helps to put things in focus.
- D. Childhood memories gain added meaning over time.

Correct Answer

- D. Childhood memories gain added meaning over time.

## Item

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## Handouts

## The Gift

by Li-Young Lee

To pull the metal splinter from my palm my father recited a story in a low voice. I watched his lovely face and not the blade. Before the story ended, he'd removed the iron sliver I thought I'd die from.	5
I can't remember the tale, but hear his voice still, a well of dark water, a prayer. And I recall his hands, two measures of tenderness	10
he laid against my face, the flames of discipline he raised above my head. Had you entered that afternoon you would have thought you saw a man	15
planting something in a boy's palm, a silver tear, a tiny flame. Had you followed that boy you would have arrived here, where I bend over my wife's right hand.	20
Look how I shave her thumbnail down so carefully she feels no pain. Watch as I lift the splinter out. I was seven when my father took my hand like this,	25
and I did not hold that shard between my fingers and think, <i>Metal that will bury me,</i> christen it Little Assassin, Ore Going Deep for My Heart.	30
And I did not lift up my wound and cry, <i>Death visited here!</i> I did what a child does when he's given something to keep. I kissed my father.	35

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"The Gift" by Li-Young Lee, from *Rose*. Copyright © 1986 by Li-Young Lee. Used with the permission of BOA Editions, LTD.